



NCSEA News

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

General Engineering Subcommittee Of the NCSEA Code Advisory Committee

Stephanie Young • Subcommittee Chair

Work has been steady for NCSEA's General Engineering Subcommittee during the past year. We met in Chicago this past fall, in conjunction with the NCSEA Annual Conference. Our discussion revolved around our success in promoting some Code Change Proposals which were accepted at the Code Hearings in Pittsburgh, as well as our disappointment due to the 'overturning' of a few of those proposals in Dallas at the Public Comment meeting. We learned a valuable lesson about preparing background information. We must convince structural engineers of the validity of a change, but we must also prepare information to enlighten all groups that may be affected by our changes. We expect to work more closely with the representatives of various material groups, as well as other industries that may oppose our views. This will allow us to develop proposals that are acceptable to all. The committee will also contact some of these groups to garner support for various changes. We believe that a little more effort prior to the hearings will aid us in achieving our goals.

The subcommittee also discussed goals. We have started an in-depth comparison of the IBC and NFPA. Various load and material chapters have been assigned to individuals, to investigate similarities and differences. Following those investigations and our subcommittee's discussion, we will submit code change proposals to each of the two code groups in an effort to work toward uniform code language.

Looking to the future, we would like to encourage the idea of the Code (IBC or NFPA) acting as the main body of general guidelines, while implementing the many available 'Referenced Standards' for design information. Some information in the Code is strictly duplicated, and we feel that this may be creating an issue of increased maintenance. Therefore, it may be beneficial to allow the Standard to govern. We also feel that we should have more contact with the representatives from the Referenced Standards, whenever possible, and deal with them directly regarding design issues. If we can positively affect the Standard, it will not be necessary to add language to the Code to satisfy our goal.

In conjunction with the Winter Institute (Clearwater, Florida) in February, another meeting was held to update the group on the progress of each individual. The examination of individual IBC and NFPA chapters is going well, although slowly. We do not expect to submit our own proposals in this cycle, but we will continue to monitor the progress of other groups and their submittals. We continue to pursue the issue that was overturned in Dallas, and will be working with the affected parties to develop an acceptable proposal. A joint committee meeting of the General Engineering and the Quality Assurance groups is proposed for later this summer, to review the collection of Code Change Proposals. This meeting will allow us to develop positions of support or denial for each of the issues. These positions will then be presented on behalf of NCSEA at the Code Hearings to be held in September 2003.

As the IBC and NFPA are accepted in various locations and become more widely used, we will continue to solicit input from the general membership regarding their concerns.

NCSEA Code Advisory Committee Needs You!!

For the past five years, the NCSEA Code Advisory Committee (CAC) has participated in the Building Code Development process with both the International Building Codes (IBC) and the NFPA 5000 Building Code (NFPA). It has made a difference in the content of those codes that all structural engineers will be practicing under for years to come. That effort would not have been possible without thousands of man-hours of volunteer time on the CAC.

The CAC has 4 sub-committees: Seismic, Quality Assurance, Existing Buildings, and General Engineering. NCSEA has attempted to keep these sub-committees appropriately balanced by region. We continue to have excellent participation in all areas except the General Engineering Subcommittee. Its ranks have been thinned by attrition, and by reassignment of some members to other duties within the CAC. This group is responsible for the broadest areas of the code, and thus the ones that most affect the practice of structural engineering: design loads other than earthquakes, foundations, and the material chapters such as steel, concrete, wood, and masonry.

The Code Advisory Committee is asking for new volunteers for the General Engineering Sub-committee. The time commitment is approximately 3 meetings per year, along with 20 to 30 hours of prep time in support of the sub-committee's efforts. Travel expenses are partially funded by NCSEA, and often supplemented to full funding by the individual's state organization.

If you are interested in making a difference in the building codes of tomorrow, contact Jim Delahay, NCSEA-CAC Chairman, at
(205) 488-0210 or jdelahay@LBYD.com.

Last Call!!

Call for entries, that is. The deadline to submit your entries for this year's NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards program is fast approaching! Submittals are due to the NCSEA office by July 10, 2003. If your firm has an outstanding project, large or small, you should consider entering NCSEA's program recognizing superior examples of structural engineering. Awards will be presented at the NCSEA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado on October 25, 2003. Winning projects will be publicized in the pages of this magazine, gaining nationwide exposure and recognition.

See the NCSEA web site, www.ncsea.com, for program rules and the entry form. Be sure to get your submittal to NCSEA by the deadline, and give your project the chance to join a growing list of exceptional structural engineering projects to have received these prestigious awards. For additional information, contact me or the NCSEA office at (312)372-8035.

Greg Schindler, PE, SE
NCSEA Awards Chair
gregs@kpff.com



**National Council of Structural Engineers Associations
Eleventh Annual Conference ♦ Denver, Colorado ♦ October 23 - 25, 2003**

Earth, Wind & Snow: Challenges from Mountain and Plain
Preliminary Program Highlights

Keynote Address: Architecture and Engineering: A Narrative of Broad Experience and Insight

John Anderson, FAIA - Anderson Mason Dale Architects

Modeling in Three Dimensions - The Future Design and Construction Tools

Trailer Martin, SE - John A. Martin Associates

Jason Lien, PE - Rocky Mountain Prestress, Inc.

Two Case Studies of Foundations in Claystones

James R. Harris, PhD, PE - J.R. Harris and Company

Friday lunch sponsored by AISC with featured presentation

Saturday lunch sponsored by PCA with featured presentation

Wind Engineering Applications in Mountainous and Special Wind Regions

Jon A. Peterka, PhD, PE - Cermak Peterka Petersen, Inc.

Snow Loads - Panel Discussion

Speakers TBD

Private Tours and Dinner in the Mountain Ranch Club at Coors Field

National Building Design Coalition Report

Michael Tylk, NCSEA Past President

Report on Code Developments

NCSEA Committee Focus: Continuing Education

NCSEA Partnering Organization Reports: SEI & CASE

CASE Report: "Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents"

NCSEA Business Meeting

Committee Reports & Discussion

NCSEA Board of Directors Meeting

Reception, Closing Banquet and Presentation of Awards



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Firm _____

Address _____

Companion _____

Phone (_____) _____

Fax (_____) _____

Email _____

Delegate from _____

Member Organization _____

Member Registration - \$495 per person

Registration fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Professional Program, Trade Exhibits, breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks on Friday and Saturday, Friday evening tour and dinner at Coors Field and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

Companion Registration - \$225 per person

Companion fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Friday continental breakfast, Friday evening tour and dinner at Coors Field, Saturday continental breakfast, and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Visa MasterCard American Express

Disability Requirements? _____

**If paying by check, mail check payable to NCSEA, with this completed Registration Form, to:
NCSEA · Suite 2010 · 203 North Wabash Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60601.**

If paying by credit card, fax this completed Registration Form to NCSEA at 312-372-5673.

Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from Denver on United or United Express between October 19 and October 29, 2003. Receive 5% off the lowest applicable discount fare, or 10% off the unrestricted coach fare. **An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance of your travel date.** To receive these special fares, you or your travel agent must call the United Airlines Meeting Reservations Center at 800- 521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID 516BG.



Marriott Denver City Center

1701 California Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Reservations:

Call the Marriott Reservations Center at 800-228-9290, or call the hotel directly at (303) 297-1300, or visit www.Marriott.com and use Group Code SEASEAA

Single or Double Room Rate: \$139 plus 13.45% tax

Mention NCSEA to receive this special room rate.

This room rate is guaranteed only through September 30, 2003.

